

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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SUSPENSE 31 Jan

Date

Remarks:

Recommendation please to DCI
together with a reply for his signature.

Executive Secretary

27 January 1983

Date

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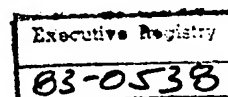


DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

25 January 1983

S-22/DR

Mr. William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, DC 20305



Dear Bill:

(S/NF) During the morning intelligence briefing for General Vessey on 25 January, the Chairman had a lengthy discussion with the staff on long-term implications of events, first in Central America and then in the entire Latin American region. I am sure General Vessey discussed his concerns with you at lunch on the 24th, however, he expressed frustration to us over the inability of the US to focus clearly on what is actually transpiring.

(S/NF) He has asked DIA to prepare a briefing which lists applicable national security documentation and relevant statements by the Administration, as well as a chronology of events in Central America. He requests that we then straight line these events out 10 years and develop what the situation would look like in 1993. In further discussion, the Chairman thought we might add South America and where do current trends take the hemisphere. Specifically, how far will it move toward Marxist/Cuban domination. He asked that we point out constraints on US activity to counter present trends and specifically mentioned the following:

- Impact of human rights on moving Argentina toward closer contact with the USSR.
- Impact of unfavorable economic trends coupled with poor crop forecasts.
- Inability to define US strategy for the region or focus attention on unfavorable trends.
- Limitations on use of US intelligence resources and military forces in support roles.

(S/NF) In short, General Vessey asked that we develop a briefing that will paint the picture in vivid fashion for the Congress. As you are aware, the Caribbean Basin Steering Group convened by [redacted] has been concerned over the same implications as they relate to current US undertakings in Central America. It is important that this briefing project be pushed emphatically with the goal of resolving short-term problems and obtaining NSC approval of US priorities at least through the mid term (1985-1988).

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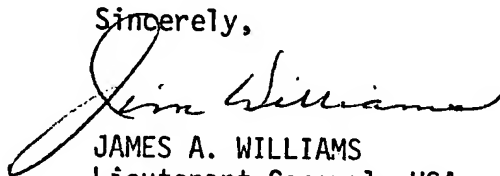
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(S/NF) As we develop the overall briefing for General Vessey I request your assistance, since many of the subjects will be beyond the strict military purview. For maximum impact of such a presentation, it should be a coordinated DoD/DCI effort. I have appointed Colonel [redacted] my Defense Intelligence Officer for Latin America, to be the Project Officer. He can be contacted at 695-0198. I request that you designate someone with whom Colonel [redacted] can work.

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Sincerely,



JAMES A. WILLIAMS
Lieutenant General, USA
Director